

Executive Registry

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February 23, 1982

Admiral Robert Inman
Central Intelligence Agency
Langley, VA 23665

Dear Admiral Inman:

In your letter of last summer you said you expected the Inspector General's report on the Bay of Pigs operation would shortly be declassified and I would receive a copy pursuant to my FOIA request. I have not received it; if you are able to expedite the process both I - and my students who will be studying the case, and trying to draw lessons from it - would benefit.

We also corresponded about the problem of the FOIA and the limited time of senior Agency personnel to provide timely FOIA declassification reviews pursuant to the law and - for historical materials - Presidential directives. May I offer a suggestion? The Agency's former senior personnel, now retired, may be in an excellent position to render useful assistance if they were engaged - for these historical cases - for several days of consultant work. They are likely to have followed, in retirement, much of the published material of the cases they were engaged in (thus assuring consistency in the material that should remain classified). Knowing the original material, they are likely to be able to process it efficiently.

As I know you realize, long delays in FOIA processing for historical material tend to raise doubts, among scholars, that changes in the current law are proposed in the spirit of protecting only legitimate secrets (rather than of denying as much access as possible). They tend to create mistrust and undercut the ability to judge these changes on their merits. Were you to have the flexibility to speed review of historical interest, I believe both scholars - and ultimately the Agency - would benefit.

Yours sincerely,

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